

**Board of Selectmen
ARPA Grants Subcommittee
Special Meeting — Town Hall
August 16, 2021 — 1:00 pm
MINUTES**

Members Present: First Selectman Kevin Cwikla; Selectmen Kathleen Smith and Betsy Petrie-McComber
Others Present: Bernard Dennler (Office Manager); Valerie Belles (Senior Accountant); Shelly Ashcom (Social Services Administrator); Ryan DelMastro (Novus Insight)

1. Call to order

First Selectman K. Cwikla called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

2. Discuss and Act on CEN/Fiber Optic Plan

The Selectmen reviewed quotes from CEN for fiber optic connections to Town Hall and the Senior Center as well as other possible facilities. R. DelMastro discussed recommendations regarding pricing tiers and implementation strategies. Discussion included whether to do a “ring insertion” with either the Town Hall or the Senior Center. The insertion requires backup power which the Senior Center has but the ring location needs to meet a minimum megabit plan that is more suited to the Town Hall’s use of the service. R. DelMastro suggested purchasing a UPS backup power supply. The Selectmen agreed to reconvene with a representative from CEN to discuss the topic of using the Town Hall as the ring insertion site.

NO ACTION TAKEN

3. Discuss and Act on Social Services-related ARPA uses

S. Ashcom discussed preliminary social services-related needs that ARPA funding could possibly address. She mentioned elderly services, transportation concerns for those who are not seniors or disabled, housing, and childcare. She said food pantry use is down from its peak and increased SNAP benefits are helping with food security issues. V. Belles recommended S. Ashcom review the Treasury Department’s Interim Final Rule on eligible ARPA expenses.

NO ACTION TAKEN

4. Discuss and Act on other possible uses of ARPA funds

The Selectmen reviewed a request from SCCOG for a voluntary contribution from ARPA. They declined to make a recommendation.

NO ACTION TAKEN

5. Approval of minutes for the following special meetings of the ARPA Grants Subcommittee:

- a. June 25, 2021
- b. July 14, 2021
- c. July 28, 2021

B. Petrie MOVED to approve the minutes of the ARPA Grants Subcommittee Special Meetings on June 25, 2021; July 14, 2021; and July 28, 2021. K. Smith SECONDED.

MOTION CARRIED 3:0

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin T. Cwikla
First Selectman